



Title : Epidemiologic and pathologic study of upper Gastrointestinal tract cancer in Ardabil province (1999 –2004)

Abstract :

Objective : According to a report published by the ministry of Health and medical Education of the I.R of Iran , and provincial Health authority reports , upper gastrointestinal (GI) cancer, (specially gastric cancer) is the most common cancer in Ardabil province , Northwest of Iran . This descriptive study was designed to determine the exact epidemyologic and pathologic Features of upper GI cancer In this hige prevalence area .

Methods : This descriptive cross – sectional study was conducted in outpatient GI cilinic in the city of Ardabil in a five- years period. Patients who attended this clinic with persistent upper GI symptoms , were underwent upper GI fiberoptic endoscopy, 576 cases with upper GI cancer were proved with histopathologic examination . Demographic data were obtained from Patient,s files. Statistical analysis were performed using the SPSS statistical software .

Results: the mean age of patients with upper GI cancer was 63.8 ± 11.4 SD and male to female ratio was 1.9:1. Rurules constituted 310 (53.82%) and urban dwellers constituted 239 (41.50%) , newly urban dwellers who were prviously resedent of rurul ares27(%4.68).

The most chif complaints of patients was Dysphagia , weight loss and epigastric pain .

Daily cigarette smoking was found as a rike - enhancing factor in 175 cases (29.5%) .

From 576 upper GI cancer , stomach cancer consitituted 360 cases (62.5%) and esophageal cancer constituted 216 cases (37.5%) .

The most common site of upper GI malignancy was the gastric cardia 155 (26.9%) , followed by middle third of esophagus 121 (21%) , Gastric body 117 (20.3%) , lower third of esophagus 75(13.03%) , Antrum 74 (12.84%), upper third of esophagus 20 (3.5%) , EGJ 14 (2.43%) .

87.5 % (n = 189) of the patients with esophageal cancer had squamous cell carcinomas , and 97.2% (N = 350) of patients with stomach cancer had Adenocarcinoma .

Conclution : Cancer of the gastric cardia is the most common upper GI malignancy in Ardabil , and constitutes almost half all gastric cancers . It is recommended that subsite specific gastric cancer risk factors , in cluding H. pylori and dietary nitrates , be studied in the future in this region .

Key wods: upper GI cancer, Esophageal cancer , Gastric cancer Ardabil.